REMARKS

In the Official Action mailed on **24 January 2007**, the Examiner reviewed claims 1-4, 6-12, 14-20 and 22-24. Claims 1-4, 6-12, 14-20 and 22-24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being unpatentable by Baisley et al (USPN 6,415,299, hereinafter "Baisley").

Amendments to the Specification

The Specification has been amended to correct several typographical errors. No new matter has been added.

Response to Examiner's Response to Arguments

Examiner avers that Baisley discloses in FIG.1 an interface for a user. Furthermore, Examiner avers that Baisley discloses in col. 5, lines 17-53, and in col. 6, lines 1-15 creating an action plan from a difference report by allowing a user to select which actions to take in merging metadata in order to produce merged metadata with desired properties and attributes.

Applicant respectfully disagrees with Examiner's assessment of Baisley. Firstly, FIG. 1 of Baisley illustrates a computing system that may execute the method that Baisley discloses. Baisley only discloses the computing system including software modeling tools and the ability to execute a repository software program (see Baisley, col. 2, lines 47-48, and col. 4, lines 16-31). However, Baisley never discloses a user interface that enables a user to select actions from an action plan to perform. Note that an action plan is different from the Baisley repository software program. An action list is a list of recommended actions for merging two versions of **metadata** (see paragraphs [0007], [0031], and [0041], and FIG. 7 of the instant application). The repository software program of Baisley, in contrast, are related to tools for cataloging, browsing, and managing components that make up an application (see Baisley, col. 4, lines 32-34). None

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of these tools provides for merging two versions of **metadata,** nor does Baisley enable the use of these tools by disclosing how they function.

Secondly, col. 5, lines 17-53, and col. 6, lines 1-15 of Baisley disclose various conflict situations and resolutions for merging two versions of a **model.** Note that **metadata** is different from a **model,** because metadata can be used to describe a model, or any object. Baisley discloses a user selecting an attribute value to use if both versions of a model include different values for the attribute (see Baisley, col. 5, lines 37-44). In contrast to the instant application, Baisley does not teach how the user selects the attribute value. Particularly, Baisley does not disclose the user having any other control over the merging process. Moreover, Baisley discloses that detecting and merging constraint violations occurs **after merging the two models** (see Baisley, col. 6, lines 9-15, and col. 7, lines 55-58).

In contrast, the present invention teaches identifying differences between two versions of metadata **prior to merging the metadata,** which enables a user to tailor how the metadata is merged. The present invention then suggests actions for merging the metadata. At this point, the present invention can merge the metadata, or a user can select specific actions from the list of suggested actions to perform (see paragraphs [0042]-[0044] of the instant application). Baisley does not teach any of these steps.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102(e)

Independent claims 1, 9, and 17 were rejected as being anticipated by Baisley. Applicant respectfully points out that Baisley discloses merging two models in an object oriented repository (see Baisley, Abstract, and col. 1, lines 65-67). This involves merging the models by replacing a target value with a source value and then handling conflicts created by the merge (see Baisley, col. 5, lines 17-36, col. 6, lines 9-15, col. 7, lines 55-58, and FIG. 3). These conflicts are resolved using pre-defined conflict resolutions (see Baisley, Table II).

In contrast, the present invention teaches allowing a user to **select a subset of actions** from a set of actions included in the action plan for merging metadata in order to produce merged metadata with desired properties and attributes (see page 10, paragraph [0041], page 11, paragraph [0044], and FIG. 7 of the instant application). These actions can include creating, deleting, and updating metadata (see page 8, paragraph [0034], and FIG. 7 of the instant application. This is advantageous because the user can determine if there are any conflicts before the data is merged. Furthermore, the user can decide what actions to take to resolve the conflicts. Moreover, the user can decide whether to completely merge two sets of metadata, or to only partially merge the sets of metadata.

There is nothing within Baisley, either implicit or explicit, that teaches enabling the user to select a subset of actions from an action plan. Furthermore, there is nothing in Baisley that teaches the user deciding how to resolve conflict in merging metadata and deciding whether to partially or completely merge the metadata.
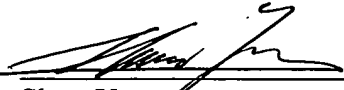
Accordingly, Applicant has amended independent claims 1, 9, and 17 to clarify that the present invention allows a user to select a subset of actions from a set of actions included in an action plan. These amendments find support on page 10, paragraph [0041], page 11, paragraph [0044], and FIG. 7 of the instant application. Dependent claim 7 has been amended to correct a typographical error.

Hence, Applicant respectfully submits that independent claims 1, 9, and 17 as presently amended are in condition for allowance. Applicant also submits that claims 2-4 and 6-8, which depend upon claim 1, claims 10-12 and 14-16, which depend upon claim 9, and claims 18-20 and 22-24, which depend upon claim 17, are for the same reasons in condition for allowance and for reasons of the unique combinations recited in such claims.

CONCLUSION

It is submitted that the present application is presently in form for allowance. Such action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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